

July 8, 1958

Dear Joshua Lederberg,

I don't know when this letter will reach you in Wisconsin, but I wanted to give you a brief progress report and let you know about a letter which will be mailed to you within the next week or two.

The letter first. It will be from a Dr. Eduardo Scarano, a DNA biochemist, and will include some of his reprints. One of the highlights of my stay here has been meeting Scarano who speaks English (a former Fulbright exchange student), is highly articulate and imaginative in his work, comes highly recommended by Dr. Peter Dohrn here among others, and is a swell guy. What he wants to do would be extremely difficult in Naples, and he is very anxious to find a position in the U.S.

I asked him to write you, not only to inquire about a possible place at Wisconsin--but also in the hope that you might be able to refer him to other universities if there is nothing available in Madison. He has worked with Kalckar and Waldo Cohn, I believe, and I hope he gets settled in the U.S.

Also, last week end I had two wonderful talks with Paul Buchner on the island of Ischia and I am most grateful to you for sending me his name. He speaks no English, although he reads it, and we spoke entirely in German--and I was amazed and pleased at how much I could get from the conversation, because it has been years that I spoke German to anyone. I was particularly impressed by his concept of somatic fertilization and the observations upon which it is based. He is someone in the von Frisch tradition, only for my money much more so although von Frisch seems to have obtained all the publicity. Buchner wants to be remembered to you, and invites you to number 15 Via Iasolino.

My writing is coming very very slowly which is somewhat of a triumph because I am not losing ground which often happens. I hope to meet you when I return, and it seems hard to believe that I haven't.

Yours,

